

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Study Notes

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THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are living in the age of the Spirit. The Old Testament is the age of the Father, the Gospels, are the age of the Son, and since the day of Pentecost, we are now living in the age of the Spirit. The least understood Person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit. Yet a proper understanding of the Spirit is basic to many doctrines, the Bible, Salvation, and the Christian life.

I. THE PERSONALITY OF THE SPIRIT

- a. Why is the personality of the Holy Spirit questioned?
 - 1. Because in contrast with the Father and Son the Spirit seems impersonal.
 - 2. Because the word "Spirit" is neuter, Greek "Pneuma", we get our word "air" or "breath" like "pneumonia". Yet often in the Bible you find the Spirit referred to as "He", a masculine pronoun. John 14-16
 - 3. Our problem is that when we say a person, we think of a human being, so we think a person has a body, but it is not so with God. Also all humans have an immaterial part, soul in spirit.
- b. Ask, what constitutes personality?
 - 1. Intelligence - I Cor 2:10-11 & Rom 8:27 2. Emotions - Eph 4:30 3. Will - I Cor 12:11
- c. Other proofs of the Spirit's personality
 - 1. His works
 - a. He teaches - John 14:26
 - b. He guides - Rom 8:14
 - c. He commissions - Acts 13:4
 - d. He commands - Acts 8:29
 - e. He restrains - Gen 6:3
 - f. He intercedes - Rom 8:26
 - g. He speaks - John 15:26, II Pet 1:21
 - 2. Proved by what is ascribed to Him. He can be:
 - a. Obeyed - Acts 10:19-21
 - b. Lied to - Acts 5:3

- c. Resisted - Acts 7:51
- d. Blasphemed - Matt 12:31
- e. Grieved - Eph 4:30
- 3. Proved by His identification with the Father and the Son
 - a. In the baptismal formula - Matt 28:19
 - b. In the apostolic benediction - II Cor 3:18

II. THE DEITY OF THE SPIRIT

- 1. Proved by His names
 - a. Called God - Acts 5:4 b. Called Lord - II Cor 3:18
- 2. He possesses divine attributes
 - a. He is eternal - Heb 9:14
 - b. He is omnipotent - Luke 1:35
 - c. He is omniscient - I Cor 2:10, 11
 - d. He is omnipresent - Ps 139:7-10
 - e. Truth - I John 5:6
 - f. Holiness - Luke 11:13
 - g. Life - Rom 8:2
- 3. Divine works are ascribed to Him
 - a. Creation - Gen 1:2, Ps 104:30, Job 33:4
 - b. Regeneration - John 3:5-8
 - c. Resurrection - Rom 8:11

III. THE TYPES OF NAMES OF THE SPIRIT

- 1. Types or figures
 - a. Dove - Matt 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:27; John 1:32
 - 1. Purity
 - 2. Peace
 - b. Fire - Acts 2:2
 - 1. Light
 - 2. Warmth
 - 3. Purified
 - c. Oil - Luke 4:18
 - d. Seal - Eph 1:13
 - e. Water - John 4:14; John 7:38-39
 - 1. Needed for life
 - 2. Satisfies thirst

3. Cleanses

f. Wind - John 3:8; Acts 2:1-2

2. Names

- a. Holy Spirit - Luke 11:13
- b. The Spirit of Grace - Heb 10:29
- c. The Spirit of Truth - John 14:17
- d. Spirit of Life - Rom 8:2
- e. Spirit of Glory - I Pet 4:14
- f. Spirit of God - I Cor 3:16
- g. Spirit of Christ - Rom 8:9

IV. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. In creation

- 1. Life - Ps 104:30; Job 33:4; I Cor 1:2

B. In relation to the Scriptures

- 1. He is the author of scripture - II Pet 1:20-21; II Tim 3:16
- 2. He is the interpreter of scripture - John 16:14

C. In the Old Testament; His relation to man

- 1. Selective indwelling - Gen 41:38; Num 27:18; Dan 4:8; Judges 3:10; I Sam 10:9-10
- 2. Special enabling for service in construction of the tabernacle - Ex 31:3. Also for other mighty works - Judges 14:6
- 3. Restraint of sin - Gen 6:3

D. In the life of Christ

- 1. In His virgin birth - Luke 1:35
- 2. In His life
 - a. He was anointed by the Spirit - Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38
 - b. He was filled with the Spirit - Luke 4:1
 - c. He was sealed with the Spirit - John 6:27
 - c. He was led by the Spirit - Luke 4:1
 - e. He was empowered by the Spirit - Matt 12:28

E. In Salvation; Without question, one of the most important and largest areas of the Spirit's work today is in relation to salvation. Salvation is His work from beginning to end.

1. Convicting - John 16:7-11
2. Regenerating - Titus 3:5, Eph 2:5
3. Indwelling - I Cor 6:19
 - a. All true believers
 - b. If not, you're not saved - Rom 8:9
4. Baptizing - I Cor 12:13
 - a. Characteristics of baptizing
 1. It occurs only in the church age
 2. It involves all believers - I Cor 12:13
 3. It happens only once - aorist tense in I Cor 12:13
 4. It's non-experiential
 - b. Consequences of baptizing
 1. It places the believer into the body of Christ
 2. It unites them with Christ in His death with respect to the sin nature - Rom 6:1-10
 3. Power to be a witness. Acts 1:8
5. Sealing
 - a. The agent - is the Father - II Cor 1:22
 - b. The means - the Spirit is the seal - Eph 1:13-14
 - b. The extent - all believers
 - c. The time - at conversion
 - e. The purpose (1) Guarantee (2) Security

V. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

- A. He gives gifts to all believers

1. The source of spiritual gifts - I Cor 12:11 2. The meaning of spiritual gifts

- a. God given ability for service, Greek "gift" is "crisma" from GRACE
- b. It's not an office in the church
- c. It's not a natural talent, but it can be developed

3. Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift - I Cor 12:7 4. But no believer has all the gifts - I Cor 12:29-31 5. The gifts differ in their administrations and operations - I Cor 12:4-6 6. The gifts are given for the profit of the whole body - I Cor 12:7 7. The gifts are to be used in love - I Cor 13 8. The gifts are to bring glory to God - I Pet 4:11 9. Are some of the sign gifts no longer for the church today? NO - I Cor 1:7 10. What are the gifts? Three lists of specific gifts are found in:

- a. Rom 12:4-8
- b. I Cor 12:8-10
- c. Eph 4:11

11. How can one discover his or her gifts:

- a. Be informed as to what spiritual gifts are available
- b. Be yielded to do anything - Rom 12:1
- c. Be active - Acts 8:5-13

B. He fills the believer: It's importance - Eph 5:18

- 1. Vital to Christian living
- 2. It's the pure essence of true spirituality
- 3. The basic requirement for growth and victory

1. The contrast - Eph 5:18a "Be not drunk"

2. The command - Eph 5:18b "But be filled" ...

- a. It is in the "imperative mood:
- b. The verb is in the "plural form" - Acts 6:3

c. It is in the "passive voice" - Rom 12:1

d. The verb is in the "present tense" then it is continuous

3. The consequences

a. Eph 5:19-21 - Joyful v.19 Thankful v. 20 Submissive v. 21

b. A Christ like character - Gal 5:22-23

c. Power for service - Acts 4:31

Contrast Baptism with Filling:

BAPTISM

1. Position
2. No experience
3. All Christians
4. Happens only once
5. Does not guarantee fruit
6. Not commanded

FILLING

1. Practice
2. Experiences
3. Not all Christians
4. Happens more than once
5. Guarantees fruit
6. Is commanded

C. He teaches - John 16:12-15

D. He guides - Rom 8:14

E. He gives assurance - Rom 8:16

F. He comforts - John 16:7

G. He helps us pray - Jude 20

He prays for us - Rom 8:26

HOW CAN I BE FILLED?

1. Confess and repent of sin - 1 John 1:9
2. Yield to God - Rom 12:1
3. Obedience to the Word - Col 2:16

BOOKS * The Holy Spirit - by Billy Graham Charisma vs. Charismania - by Chuck Smith Baptism and Fullness - by John R.W. Stott The Holy Spirit - by W. H. Griffith Thomas Be Filled With The Spirit - by Lehman Strauss The Spirit of God - by G. Campbell Morgan